

67,000 youth nationwide, whose mission is to educate, motivate, and inspire civic-minded young people to become effective community leaders. The Dayton chapter is the first NAACP Youth Council in the State of Ohio to host an annual youth leadership summit. The theme of this year's event is: "In It To Win It." The summit consisted of a series of panel discussions to inform and educate the community on timely topics ranging from violence and drug activity in the community, to health, political action and finances, faith and the community, and youth with disabilities.

Under the leadership of Barbara Mack, the Dayton NAACP Youth Council has earned recognition from the national organization for its recent accomplishments. The Dayton chapter ranked first among NAACP Youth Councils in the seven-State Midwestern region for signing up the most new members. The recruitment of 122 new members increased the total membership to over 600—strong, giving the council more clout at the national level. As a reward for their efforts, 15 members of the Youth Council attended the 38th annual NAACP Image Awards held at the Shrine Auditorium on March 2, 2007 in Los Angeles, which was broadcast live on FOX.

I am proud to acknowledge the Dayton NAACP Youth Council on the success of its inaugural Leadership Summit, and congratulate Barbara Mack for her leadership on behalf of the young people of Ohio's Third Congressional District.

HONORING THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN PASSAIC COUNTY AND THE DISTINGUISHED HONOREES OF ITS 4TH ANNUAL VISION AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS DINNER

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Mental Health Association in Passaic County for its outstanding dedication to the well-being of the people of Passaic. For two decades, the committed staff and volunteers of this organization have provided County residents with the services and support that they need to take care of themselves. From a listening ear to prescription drugs and therapy to education and public awareness efforts, the Mental Health Association serves Passaic residents from childhood to retirement, often without payment for all they provide.

At their Fourth Annual Vision and Achievement Awards Dinner tonight, the Mental Health Association in Passaic County will honor seven tremendous citizens whose individual efforts also work to support the well-being of Passaic residents. Each, in his or her own way, helps to make the quality of life in this North Jersey community top-notch, and I wish to recognize them all for their outstanding accomplishments:

Mohamed El Filali, Outreach Director at the Islamic Center of Passaic County and the Muslim Chaplain at the Passaic County Jail.

Sister Gloria Perez, Executive Director of Eva's Kitchen and Sheltering Programs.

Dr. Steven D. Rose, President of Passaic County Community College.

Dr. Sybil C. Schreiber, Executive Director of the Passaic County Mental Clinic.

Jerry Speziale, Passaic County Sheriff.

Jack McElligott, a licensed clinical social worker and member of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association in Passaic County.

Linda Shapiro, a loving wife and mother and volunteer for the Mental Health Association in Passaic County.

It is an honor to recognize the public service of these seven individuals and all the men and women who make the Mental Health Association in Passaic County such an important part of the Passaic community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL WARMING WILDLIFE SURVIVAL ACT

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I am very much aware of the need to take action to address global warming, and I recently held a hearing to examine the impact of climate change on many of the agencies and resources under my subcommittee's jurisdiction. At the beginning of that hearing, I stated my belief that climate change may be the emerging issue of our time. Climate change may alter the face of our planet in ways we cannot yet comprehend, and I believe it is our responsibility not only to do as much as possible to halt or slow it, but also to do everything in our power to protect the earth's resources from its impacts so that future generations will be able to benefit from them as we and past generations have done.

Our Nation's wildlife is one critically important resource that is particularly vulnerable to climate change and is also a resource that is a fundamental part of America's history and character. Conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat is a core value shared by all Americans.

America's wildlife is vital to our Nation for many reasons. Wildlife conservation provides economic, social, educational, recreational, emotional, and spiritual benefits. The economic value of hunting, fishing, and wildlife-associated recreation alone is estimated to contribute \$100 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Wildlife habitat, including forests, grasslands, riparian lands, wetlands, rivers and other water bodies, is an essential component of the American landscape, and is protected and valued by Federal, State, and local governments, tribes, private landowners, and conservation organizations.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the effect of climate change on wildlife will be profound. The recently released reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC have made clear that global warming is occurring, that it is exacerbated by human activity, and that it will have devastating impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Wildlife is already suffering from massive changes in habitat, particularly in the arctic, and shifts in ranges and timing of migration and breeding cycles. Continued global warming could lead to large-scale species

extinctions. These impacts add to and compound the adverse effects wildlife and its habitat already suffer from land development, energy development, road construction, and other human activities, and from other threats such as invasive species and disease.

According to the IPCC, global warming and associated sea level rise will continue for centuries due to the timescales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if greenhouse gas concentrations are stabilized now or in the very near future. I believe that, as a nation, we must craft responses and mechanisms now to help wildlife navigate the threats caused by global warming.

To conserve wildlife in the face of the far-reaching effects of global warming, there is a need for a coordinated, national strategy based on sound scientific information to ensure that impacts on wildlife that span government jurisdictions are effectively addressed and to ensure that Federal funds are prudently committed. Ensuring strategic and efficient allocation of funding is something of particular interest to me as an appropriator.

Today I am introducing the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" as a first step in ensuring our Nation is using all possible means to help America's wildlife survive the impacts of global warming.

The "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" has four elements:

First, it includes a congressional declaration of national policy recognizing that global warming is having profound impacts on wildlife and its habitat and committing the Federal Government, in cooperation with State, tribal and local governments and other concerned organizations, to use all practicable means to assist wildlife in adapting to and surviving the effects of global warming.

Second, the bill requires development of a national strategy for assisting wildlife impacted by global warming developed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Commerce, States, tribes, local governments, conservation organizations and scientists, and coordinated with State wildlife action plans, the national fish habitat action plan, and other relevant wildlife conservation plans. A committee of scientists is established to advise the Secretary in development of the national strategy. The Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce are charged with implementing the national strategy on Federal lands and in conservation programs they administer.

Third, the bill will support improved science capacity for Federal agencies to respond to global warming, including establishment of a National Global Warming and Wildlife Science Center in the United States Geological Survey, and enhanced science capacity in Federal land management and wildlife agencies.

Finally, the bill directs strategic allocation of funding for implementation of the national strategy and State and tribal actions to enhance wildlife resilience to global warming. The Act allocates Federal funding to implement the National Strategy 45 percent to Federal land management agencies, 25 percent to federally funded and implemented fish and wildlife programs, and 30 percent to States. I am very pleased to say that the State and tribal funding allocated in the bill is made available through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. The bill also authorizes the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

which was created by our subcommittee in the fiscal year 2001 Interior appropriations bill as an upstream solution to help conserve species before they decline to the point where they need Endangered Species Act protection. Now this important program, and the comprehensive State wildlife action plans that were required for states to get funding, will be on the forefront of our Nation's efforts to help mitigate the impacts of global warming on wildlife.

This bill will help ensure that the pressing needs that are faced by the agencies and programs under the Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee to help wildlife and wildlife habitat are addressed strategically, based on a foundation of sound scientific information, and that funding is allocated among the Federal agencies and the States in the most efficient way possible.

As I introduce this important bill, I also have one additional very significant point to make about funding to address impacts to wildlife from global warming. As Congress moves forward in considering comprehensive legislation to address global warming, it is possible that new sources of funding for the Federal Government will be generated. For example, in legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions, it is likely that a system of emissions credits that can be traded would be created. In the process, there is an opportunity to auction some of these credits, producing substantial revenue for the Federal Treasury. Although the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act" as I am introducing it authorizes funding to implement the provisions of the bill, I believe that a portion of any revenues that will be generated by upcoming global warming legislation should be specifically dedicated to implement the provisions of the "Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act."

The Interior and Environment appropriations subcommittee allocation is woefully stressed just dealing with the current needs of the agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. Our Federal land management agencies have tremendous backlogs for operations and maintenance of our national wildlife refuges, parks, forests and other public lands. This situation has been greatly exacerbated by the past 6 years of Bush administration budgets and prior Congresses. Hundreds of important biologist positions have been cut, and the agencies' budgets are far below what they have needed just to keep up with inflation. These programs have been starved to the point where they are on life support. It became apparent in the recent hearing on global warming held by the subcommittee that the land management agencies are already seeing the results of climate change on the ground, but that they have few, if any, resources to deal with these changes. With the effects of global warming only expected to increase in severity in the coming years, I believe it is crucial to infuse dedicated new funding into our efforts to address this crisis, and I will work to make this happen.

This is a great Nation with a unique and irreplaceable natural heritage. We must take steps now to protect our wonderful wildlife from the ravages of climate change.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH YODER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Keith Yoder of Kalamazoo, Michigan for his 32 years of distinguished public service with the Social Security Administration.

Keith began his career with Social Security in July 1975 as a Claims Authorizer in Philadelphia, PA. While it would take 25 years for Keith to make his way to our corner of Southwest Michigan, he continued to develop an impressive professional track record throughout Indiana and Michigan.

Over the past 7 years, Keith has managed the Social Security field office in Kalamazoo, from which he and his staff have faithfully served the residents of Allegan, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties. During an age in which government bureaucracy has too often become synonymous with the impersonal and lethargic, Keith and, under direction, his team have always been a reliable, informative and affable resource for my constituents and staff. His support of shelter-based and follow-up assistance to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees who made their way to my district in 2005 serves as a testament to both the good will and dedication that characterize his career.

Once again, I would like to personally congratulate and thank Keith Yoder for his many years of public service to the citizens of this great country. Southwest Michigan is truly a better place because of his contributions.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former California Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and her lifetime of dedication to the people of California and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away so suddenly. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who during her lifetime made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation.

A native of Alabama—there is some dispute as to whether she was born in Gee's Bend or Birmingham—Juanita's ties to her home state remained strong throughout her life. In fact, just a few short years ago, she was extremely involved with her family reunion which was held in Monroeville, in Alabama's First District. She was always so very proud of her family and naturally, they are so very proud of her.

Juanita began her career as a teacher in Los Angeles. She was also the editor-writer for the Los Angeles Unified School District and worked as a manuscript editor for Images, a textbook designed to enhance the self-esteem of young women. She began her political career in 1990, when she was elected to the Cason City Council. Just 2 years later, she was elected to the California State Assembly.

In 1996, Juanita was elected to represent the 37th District of California in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout her seven terms, she was a champion of election reform and women's health issues. She made history in the 110th Congress when she was named chairwoman of the House Administration Committee becoming the first African American woman to chair a House committee.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. Juanita will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant.

Juanita Millender-McDonald will be deeply missed by her family—her husband, James McDonald Jr., her five children, and five grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, we are here today because last week President Bush vetoed legislation supported by a majority of the members of the House and the Senate. The vetoed supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1591, would have provided funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, cared for the needs of our veterans and put forth commonsense benchmarks and timelines to hold Iraq's politicians accountable for achieving needed political results. President Bush rejected that modest requirement to the foreign policy disaster he has created in Iraq. Once again it would appear he has forgotten that the rubber stamp Congress he had grown accustomed to is no longer in power and the American people, along with the new Congress, expect cooperation, compromise and an exit strategy from Iraq, not more "stay the course" rhetoric that has cost our Nation so many lives.

Today's bill, H.R. 2206, unfortunately does not set a timetable for bringing U.S. troops home, but it does provide President Bush with an opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to holding Iraq's political leadership accountable while providing the Department of Defense with \$42.8 billion in immediate funding for our troops in Iraq. This legislation also provides Congress the ability to ensure that the President and the Pentagon are taking meaningful steps to achieve success in Iraq by "protecting" an additional \$52.8 billion in military spending. This spending would be released when the President reports to Congress in mid-July that his stated benchmarks and goals in Iraq are being met. This legislation is not the blank check the President wants. But, it is a responsible, measured approach for a White House that has proven itself incapable of honest, forthright leadership in managing this war.

H.R. 2206 is necessary legislation that puts the needs of U.S. troops and responsible accountability for a policy that now threatens